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EXPEDITED PROCEDURE - EXAMINING GROUP 1636 TECH CENTER 1600/2900

S/N 09/458,779

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Martin Latterich et al.	Examiner:	Katharine F. Davis
Serial No.:	09/458,779	Group Art Unit:	1636
Filed:	December 10, 1999	Docket:	1211.001US1
Title:	SEQUENCE AND METHOD FOR INCREASING PROTEIN EXPRESSION IN CELLULAR EXPRESSION SYSTEMS		

AMENDMENT & RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Box AF
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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In response to the final Office Action mailed March 26, 2002, please amend the application as follows:

This response is accompanied by a Petition, as well as the appropriate fee, to obtain a three-month extension of the period for responding to the Office action, thereby moving the deadline for response from June 26, 2002 to September 26, 2002.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the claim set in the appendix entitled Clean Version of Pending Claims for the previously pending claim set. The substitute claim set is intended to reflect cancellation of claims 43-45, amendment of previously pending claims 3, 4, 12, 14, 15, 25, 26, 31, 33, 36, 37 and 46, and addition of claims 47-52. The specific amendments to individual claims are detailed in the following marked up set of claims.

Please cancel claims 43-45 without prejudice.

3. (Thrice amended) A polynucleotide comprising a sequence encoding a [functional] vesicular fusion factor 2 protein (Vff2p) comprising [wherein the Vff2p has greater than 36% sequence identity with] SEQ ID NO:2 or conservative variations thereof], and wherein the Vff2p increases yeast cell growth or protein secretion].